



PCT 10 Rec'd PCT/IPEA 04 OCT 2004

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

510,130

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 62782	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416) FOR FURTHER ACTION	
International application No. PCT/FR2003/001079	International filing date (day/month/year) 04 avril 2003 (04.04.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 05 avril 2002 (05.04.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC H04L 12/56		
Applicant	THALES et al.	

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 2 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I Basis of the report
- II Priority
- III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV Lack of unity of invention
- V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI Certain documents cited
- VII Certain defects in the international application
- VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 10 octobre 2003 (10.10.2003)	Date of completion of this report 04 August 2004 (04.08.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

I. Basis of the report

1. This report has been drawn on the basis of (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments.*):

- the international application as originally filed.
- the description, pages 1-8, as originally filed,
pages _____, filed with the demand,
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____
- the claims, Nos. _____, as originally filed,
Nos. _____, as amended under Article 19,
Nos. _____, filed with the demand,
Nos. 1-5, filed with the letter of 26 July 2004 (26.07.2004),
Nos. _____, filed with the letter of _____
- the drawings, sheets/fig 1/3-3/3, as originally filed,
sheets/fig _____, filed with the demand,
sheets/fig _____, filed with the letter of _____
sheets/fig _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages _____
- the claims, Nos. _____
- the drawings, sheets/fig _____

3. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

4. Additional observations, if necessary:

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.
PCT/FR/01079

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-5	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-5	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-5	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

1. Reference is made to the following document:

D1: WO-A-95 29544.

Document D1, which is considered to be the prior art closest to the subject matter of claim 1, describes a method for communicating with a redundant system in which the redundant entities are routers.

The subject matter of claim 1 differs from the method known from D1 in that the redundant entities are serial lines.

It follows that the subject matter of claim 1 is novel (PCT Article 33(2)).

The problem that the present invention is intended to solve can therefore be considered to be that of enabling one serial line to be replaced with another serial line belonging to the same group.

The solution involves serial line addressing and is not known or obvious from the cited documents, which disclose only systems wherein the redundant entities

are routers.

As a result, the subject matter of claim 1 fulfils the requirements of PCT Article 33(3).

2. Claim 3 is the device claim that corresponds to method claim 1 and, as such, also fulfils the requirements of PCT Article 33(2) and 33(3).
3. Claims 2, 4 and 5 are dependent on claim 1 or claim 3 and therefore also fulfil, as such, the PCT requirements of novelty and inventive step.

Observations with respect to form

1. Contrary to the requirements of PCT Rule 5.1(a)(ii), the description does not indicate the relevant prior art disclosed in document D1, nor does it cite said document.
2. Claim 3 does not fulfil the requirements of clarity of PCT Article 6 because it is a device claim and should therefore contain device features (means for...) rather than method features.